Representation for the removal of US imposed sanctions

549. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government still continue to impose sanctions against Indian entities which were first imposed after Pokhran-II tests;

(b) if so, what are the sanctions still in force;

(c) whether any representations have been made to the US Government to remove these sanctions; and

(d) if so, what is their response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The US has lifted a number of unilateral restrictions imposed against India following the nuclear tests in May 1998. In addition, 51 Indian entities have been removed from the list of over 200 Indian Governmental, parastatal and private organisations which were subject to tighter restrictions.

The US continues to maintain restrictions on lending for non-humanitarian purposes by International Financial Institutions; on sale and financing of defence related articles; and, on dual use items and technology. In addition, over 150 Indian entities continue to be subject to tighter restrictions.

(c) Government continues to convey to the US Government that these unilateral restrictions imposed against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted.

(d) The US Government has not indicated any time frame for lifting the remaining restrictions.